

A new abstract sheet is submitted herewith to update the subject matter of the present invention.

The specification has been amended to refer to the parent application and to delete references to Figs. 3, 6A and 6B, which have been cancelled.

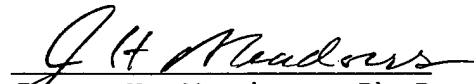
The newly submitted claims are the same as those cancelled by Examiner's Amendment in the CPA of the parent application. Claims 1-8 are directed to an aspect of the inventive hydrogel materials, which does not include a disintegrant. Support for the claimed subject matter is found at least in examples 1-9 and 11 at pages 28-36. New claims 9-18 are directed to therapeutic methods for using an instant hydrogel material to treat diseases or disorders in human or animal patients. Biomedical applications of the inventive hydrogel materials are discussed at pages 73-76 of the specification.

An Information Disclosure Statement and PTO Forms 1449 accompany. The Examiner is requested to transfer those references furnished and cited in the parent application to the present application.

Examination and consideration and are respectfully requested.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conversation could expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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I, James H. Meadows, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage with the USPS Express Mail Post Office to Addressee service in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on March 16, 2001.  
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